



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices for next week were mixed, but mostly trending unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady in the West, steady to about steady in the Midwest, but steady to fully steady in the East. Demand into all channels was light to moderate, instances fairly good and improved into food services. Supplies were usually sufficient with heavier weights in the East balanced to well cleared. In Southern California, labor strikes continued to wreak havoc on major retail chains with drivers not able to make deliveries or turned away due to staff shortages. In the parts structure, trading was light to fair, slightly better to cover weekend needs. Breast items were in the longest position, wings were close to tight, and dark meat was mostly available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at weights in a full range.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 10/20/03-10/24/03 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	53.00-56.00	53.00-65.00	55.92	25
Los Angeles	74.00			
New York	58.00-61.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	64.00-69.00	51.00-70.00	67.73	81

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 68.50 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
875	63.77-71.00	68.34

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	204.50	1,381
BREASTS - B/S	181.00	5,042
BREASTS - WHOLE	89.00	1,753
THIGH MEAT - B/S	94.50	933
LEG QUARTERS	31.50	8,436
WINGS	90.50	2,959

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into the Chicago area were unchanged from Monday's final. Whole fryer market tone was about steady. Offerings of whole birds were limited for the generally light demand. Retail movement continued generally light to fair at best. Food service demand was improved and mostly moderate, instances good. Floor stocks were in a full range. Sizes were desirable to heavy. Parts trade was good on wings with remaining items seeing little trade interest. Supplies of wings remain tight, breast items long, and dark meat cuts available and in balance with needs. The market tone was fully steady to firm on wings, cautiously steady to weak on breast cuts and steady on the balance.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was generally steady entering the weekend. Demand into all channels was mostly light to fair, moderate for retail ads and fast food promotions. Supplies were usually sufficient for current trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was light to fair; however, interest for poultry increased in areas where red meat prices were higher. Breast items were not as plentiful, but still readily available, and wings were clearing seasonally well. Dark meat was in good balance and was steadily moving. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices unchanged from last week. Light trading reported for next weeks' deliveries and at mainly unchanged prices. Offerings adequate to cover current needs. Retailer demand throughout most of the region was fairly good. However at many Southern California major chain stores strikers continued to restrain delivery of merchandise since the majority of truck drivers hauling perishable product destined for the shelves either refused to cross picket lines or were turned back due to lack of staff. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

Arizona – not available;

Colorado – whole body 59, boneless breast 299, boneless breast fillets marinated 399, boneless breast free range 499, split breast 88-199, boneless thighs meat 299, boneless thighs meat 3# bag IQF 457, thighs 99-139, drumstick 99-139;

Northern California – not available;

Southern California – whole body 57-69, seasoned whole body 99, whole cut-up 99-149, Cornish hen 199, Cornish hen marinated 199, roasters 149, boneless breast 197-399, boneless breast 2.5# bag IQF 699, boneless thigh meat marinated 238, boneless thigh meat 299, boneless leg meat marinated 199, boneless leg meat 119-199, split breast 148, whole breast 99, leg quarters 77, leg quarters marinated 99, leg quarters 10# bag 370-390, wings 5# bag IQF 500, wings 99-169, thigh 57-169, drumstick 48-169, drumstick 5# bag 245, gizzards 99, feet 99.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was moderate entering the weekend. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds were at least sufficient, however, the larger sizes were in good balance. Movement through retail and distributive channels was about fair. The market tone was mostly steady. In the parts complex, breast items remained available at discounted levels. Dark meat cuts were balanced. Tenderloins were fully adequate. Wings were well cleared.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally fair to good and best on the generally well cleared supply of 3.50 and 4.00 pound sizes. 2.50 and 3.00 pound sizes were adequate to ample. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights were in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were moderately heavy when combined with operations planned for Saturday. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 60 to 70 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady. Boneless/skinless breasts and tenders were readily available. whole breasts were fully adequate. Leg items were adequate to short. Wings were balanced to short.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA. **BRANDED U.S. GRADE A**

RANGE	60-74
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	63.12
NO. OF BOXES	8,110
CUMULATIVE	10/13/03-10/17/03 63.29
	10/14/02-10/18/02 48.94
NO. OF BOXES	10/13/03-10/17/03 44,638
	10/14/02-10/18/02 46,697

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

October 16

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

October 17

POUNDS					POUNDS					WEEKLY	
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG	
BREAST - B/S	853	135.00-224.00	137-141	139.06	863	145.00-225.00	148-152	150.47	3,464	144.55	
TENDERLOINS	235	145.00-215.00	146-152	156.77	165	145.00-215.00	145-149	158.15	817	159.08	
BREAST - LINE RUN	99	80.00-94.00	83-84	84.65	115	80.00-94.00	83-85	83.56	434	84.25	
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				230	73.09	
LEGS	123	32.00-52.00	34-35	35.25	113	33.00-52.00	33-35	35.76	492	35.46	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	613	26.00-30.00	26-27	26.52	638	26.00-30.00	26-27	26.66	2,474	26.60	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,025	28.00-33.00	29-30	29.74	1,225	28.00-33.00	29-30	30.08	4,365	29.70	
WINGS (WHOLE)	296	80.00-90.00	-	86.59	121	80.00-90.00	-	84.55	669	84.76	
WINGS (CUT)	450	88.00-108.00	-	95.99	454	88.00-108.00	-	97.16	2,167	96.47	
DRUMSTICKS	47	38.00-53.00	-	40.00	41	38.00-53.00	-	43.71	116	44.41	
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				112	53.46	
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				60	82.00-98.00	-	89.08	272	89.03	
*****					*****					*****	
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS						
TRADING FOR OCTOBER 16, 2003 F.O.B. DOCK.					TRADING FOR OCTOBER 17, 2003 F.O.B. DOCK.						

RANGE**TODAY'S AVERAGE****RANGE****TODAY'S AVERAGE****5-DAY AVERAGE**

48.50 - 52.50

50.32

48.00 - 52.50

49.92

49.90

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS - Trucklot buying activity increased slightly, but was noted as mostly moderate entering the weekend. Offerings of breast items remained available. Dark meat cuts were sufficient. Wings ranged balanced to adequate. Tenderloins were fully sufficient. Retail and distributive movement was moderate to fairly good at times. The market tone was barely steady on breast items and tenderloins, and at least steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

Oct 16

CURRENT NEG**WTD****VOL/LBS****CURRENT NEG****WTD****VOL/LBS****WEEKLY**

ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	155-160	155.94	556,420	155-160	154.45	299,920	158.93	2,121,462
TENDERLOINS	150	152.83	142,840	150	151.26	66,720	148.10	632,560
BREAST - WITH RIBS	76-77	84.16	180,920	76-77	84.35	232,440	82.72	1,055,280
BREAST - LINE RUN	76	80.28	80,200	76	77.49	117,520	78.08	636,400
LEGS	38-39	39.70	183,920	38-39	38.62	238,480	38.88	1,165,320
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30	29.49	456,069	29-30	29.86	347,209	29.00	1,908,616
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	38.40	176,000	34-35	40.46	93,120	39.48	613,020
THIGHS	29-30	36.86	73,360	29-30	40.11	64,870	37.97	370,160
B/S THIGHS	84-85	85.26	91,840	84-85	88.42	40,200	86.62	282,100
WINGS (WHOLE)	80-81	87.58	157,360	80-81	88.17	124,080	86.91	725,920
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.24	49,200	10-12	12.17	35,000	12.09	185,360
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	32.28	14,640	35-40	30.92	15,120	33.92	71,775
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	64.19	17,320	55-60	61.95	37,960	63.36	137,700

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

UNAVAILABLE AT TIME OF PUBLICATION

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	92-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	60-63
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	101-103
DRY PACK	
ICE PACK	100
ROASTERS 4# & UP	89-105
DRY PACK	
ICE PACK	105
HENS OVER 5#	91
ICE PACK	
DRY PACK	89
DUCKS	152-175

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 04-Oct-03 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ Food service (B) Retail (C) Deboning
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	17,670	18,235	35,284
Avg Weight	3.81	4.73	6.50
% of total /1	25%	26%	50%

COMPARISONS

Last week	18,785	26,724	33,161
Avg Weight	3.60	4.56	6.04
% of total /1	24%	34%	42%
Same week, yr ago /2	13,051	13,369	24,610
Avg Weight	3.86	4.54	6.29
% of total /1	26%	26%	48%

To date/2003	927,339	945,633	1,782,284
To date/2002	1,036,099	884,369	1,648,111

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.
(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.
(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.
(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 11-Oct-03 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
HEAD	156,092	1,263	1,443	2,706	406
AVG WT	5.14	3.40	8.06	5.88	6.80
LAST WEEK	158,247	1,346	1,444	2,790	435
SAME WK YR AGO	158,073	1,754	1,536	3,290	412
AVG WT	5.08	3.30	8.14	5.56	7.03
TO-DATE/2003	6,297,616	60,316	57,545	117,861	16,929
TO-DATE/2002	6,375,068	71,997	57,620	129,617	17,309

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 158.6 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 158 million head or 0.6 million head less than or 100% of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: OCT 14, 2003
PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

AI PAPERS REQUIRED FOR ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	RANGE	RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.90 - .95	Silkie 1.75 - 2.00ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.70 - .90	Geese
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.30 - .50	9-14 LBS .35 - .70
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.60 - 1.00	Pigeons 1.85 - 2.10ea.
Crossbred Fowl		White Pigeons 2.75 - 3.10ea.
5-9 LBS	1.00	Rabbits 4-6 LBS .80 - 1.25
Crossbred Roasters		Rabbits 6-9 LBS .75 - .90
4-6 LBS	.60 - .90	Bunnies 2.00 - 4.00ea.
Crossbred Roasters		Guinea Pigs 4.00 - 6.50ea.
7-11 LBS	.55 - .70	Goats 21.00 - 30.00ea.
Banty Roasters	3.00 - 4.00ea.	Kid Goats 15.00 - 20.00ea.
Banty Hens	1.50 - 2.00ea.	Doves 3.50 - 4.00ea.
Leghorn Hens	.04 - .06	Chukars 3.00ea.
Total Coops Sold	501	Pullets 4-6 LBS .90 - 1.00ea.

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 06-OCT-2003

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	140	146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	124-128	125-130
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	68.00-69.00	68.00-69.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	59.00-86.00	68.00-76.00

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Demand was moderate to good. Schedules full-time to slightly reduced. Weights were desirable to instances light. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18 oz. boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.45, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 06-OCT-2003

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	107-124	125
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
SEPTEMBER 6	138.7	156.1	89%	5.15
13	160.4	157.1	102%	5.18
20	157.9	158.4	100%	5.30
27	162.0	159.4	102%	5.24
OCTOBER 4	160.2	158.9	101%	4.99
11	158.0	158.6	100%	5.14
YEAR TO DATE	6374.2	6440.9	99%	
OCTOBER 18		158.1		
25		158.3		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER**Under Federal Inspection**

W/E	10/18/03	10/11/03	% CHG	10/19/02	% CHG
Broilers	UNAVAILABLE AT TIME OF PUBLICATION				
Cattle	620	636	-02	711*	-13
Hogs	2,118	2,081	+02	2,024*	+05

*ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were generally unchanged on both heavy and light cannery when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair but generally unaggressive. Trading was light. Supplies were less available but still sufficient for most needs. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
20-26 MAJORITY 23-23.75	28-36 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
22-27 MAJORITY 25.5-26	31.5-38 MAJORITY 35-37

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION Values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Offerings of spent fowl were at least adequate to fully adequate for current trade needs. Demand was fair to moderate. Processing schedules were normal to less than normal. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	0-12	9-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Salvage values were too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate offerings from primary users. Processors were running schedules intended to sell to a slow call for dressed product. Costs of disposal were expected to remain stable.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Values ranged unchanged when compared to last week. Offerings were tight to adequate with demand fairly good to mostly good as many alternative users ran less spent fowl than desired. Opinions of value were generally steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	8-12.5	10-12.25

WEST COAST LIGHT Plants worked desired schedules. Offerings were barely adequate.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 20 -OCT-03

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was moderate for the mostly adequate to at least adequate offerings. Supplies of finished product was clearing satisfactorily and was sufficient for trade needs. Processing schedules were reduced in some instances. The undertone was steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings of heavy hens. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were fair. Trade sentiment was about steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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